



**STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

Vermont Statewide High School Assessment Results Released

MONTPELIER – Statewide high school assessment results for Fall 2007 were released by the Vermont Department of Education today. The results are from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) exams, given to Vermont public school students in grade 11 for the first time this fall. Students were tested in reading, writing and mathematics.

Sixty-seven percent of Vermont high school students tested were proficient or higher in reading. In writing, 39 percent of students tested were proficient or higher. In mathematics, only 30 percent of Vermont students were proficient or higher.

As seen in previous years statewide and nationally, an achievement gap persists between boys and girls, and between students from low-income families and their peers. In reading, girls outperform boys 75 percent to 59 percent. In writing, that gap widens to 48 percent versus 30 percent. In mathematics, the gap essentially disappears, with 31 percent of male students and 29 percent of female students demonstrating proficiency.

Students from low-income households are not achieving at the same level as their peers. In reading, only 47 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 72 percent of their peers. In mathematics, 15 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 34 percent of their peers. In writing, 22 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 43 percent of their peers. When both gender and family income are examined, only 14 percent of females from low-income households are proficient in math, and only 16 percent of males from low-income households are proficient in writing.

The NECAP exams were created in collaboration with Rhode Island and New Hampshire. These exams are designed to specifically assess how well Vermont students have learned the skills and content contained in *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities* and Grade Expectations. This is the first year of results on the NECAP exams for grade 11. As required under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), a Science assessment is planned for May 2008 in grades four, eight and 11.

For school-by school results, visit

http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#NECAP.

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